

Claims

1. A tract wound irrigation tip comprising:

an elongate flexible shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and suction and irrigation lumens extending through the shaft;

a connector at the proximal end of the shaft for connection of the irrigation lumen to a liquid pressure source;

the irrigation lumen terminating at its distal end at an outlet, the geometry and dimensions of the irrigation lumen and outlet being configured so that the stagnation pressure of liquid emitted from the outlet is up to, but not substantially beyond, about 15 p.s.i., under the influence of a predetermined liquid inlet pressure;

the shaft being sufficiently flexible to enable it to bend through at least an angle of 90° without any substantial drop in the stagnation pressure of the emitted liquid.

2. A tract wound irrigation tip as defined in claim 1 wherein the radius of the bend is at least as small as about 5/8 inch.

3. A tract wound irrigation tip as defined in claim 1 wherein the area defined by the lumens comprises between about 30 percent to about 60 percent of the cross-sectional area of the shaft.

4. A method for irrigating a tract wound comprising:

providing an elongate flexible shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a suction lumen and an irrigation lumen, the suction and irrigation lumens extending through the shaft and being open at the distal end of the shaft; and

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advancing the flexible shaft into and through the tract wound, the shaft being sufficiently flexible to enable it to bend through at least an angle of 90° at a radius at least as small as five-eighths of an inch, without substantially adversely affecting the functioning of the lumens, including maintaining the ability of the irrigation lumen to emit irrigation liquid at a stagnation pressure of about 15 p.s.i. while the shaft is bent at said angle and at said radius.)

5. A method as defined in claim 4 further comprising:

advancing the shaft to place its distal extremity at the distal end of the tract wound to enable liquid emitted from the distal end of the shaft to be directed at the distal end of the wound.